

**Middletown Public Schools**

**Middletown, Rhode Island**

**Thursday, September 22, 2011**

**Michael S. Pinto Conference Room**

**7:00 p.m. Regular School Committee Meeting**

**Members Present:**

**Michael Crowley, Jr., Chairman**

**Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair**

**Kellie DiPalma**

**Liana Fenton**

**William O'Connell**

**Also Present:**

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools**

**Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent for Academic and  
Technology Services**

**Edward Collins, Director of Facilities**

**Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager**

**The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. All School Committee Members were present. Administrative staff members in attendance were Gail Abromitis, Christopher Savastano, and Stephen Ponte. Michelle Fonseca arrived at 8:05 p.m.**

## **SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING**

### **“Common Core Standards”**

**A video was shown to the School Committee that had previously been shown to the leadership team and to teachers on Opening Day. The speaker is David Coleman, one of the authors of Common Core Standards. There are two other videos to follow highlighting Common Core Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts.**

## **PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS**

**No “Proclamations/Awards” for September 22, 2011.**

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**No “Student Activities” for September 22, 2011.**

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## **INFORMATION**

**Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:**

- Town Council approved the Stage II Necessity of School Construction Feasibility Report.**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**No “Correspondence” for September 22, 2011.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION: 1)Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.**

- Approval of Minutes of August 25, 2011 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 24, 2011, in the amount of \$496,543.07**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 30, 2011, in the amount of \$14,329.70**

## **APPOINTMENTS**

**Joshua Beagan**

**Pre-Engineering/Technology Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School**

**Deborah Barrett**

**Account Manager**

**Christopher Smith**

**Custodian 1 (Nights), Middletown High School**

## **MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**Patrick Aylward**

**Student Activities Coordinator**

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**C. Christopher Savastano**

**Director of Fine and Applied Arts**

**For the duration of tenure as Interim Associate Principal, Middletown High School**

**Lisa Carr**

**Teacher Assistant, Middletown High School**

**From September 6, 2011 to January 3, 2012**

## **FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR**

**Deborah Anthony**

**Consumer Science Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School**

## **RESIGNATION**

**Leigh Voute**

**.6 Guidance Counselor, Middletown High School**

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**Julie Braga**

**Spanish Teacher, Middletown High School (One Year Only)**

## **RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT REVISION**

**Emma J. Coupal**

**Clerk, AV/IT**

**Retirement date changed from November 1, 2011 to the end of the 2011-2012 school year**

## **ASSIGNMENT**

**Laurie Oliveira**

**From Grade Three, Aquidneck School, to Grade 2, Aquidneck School**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES EXTENSION**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the one year extension to Mello Construction for snow removal services. Unanimous vote.**

**Mr. O'Connell asked how payment is made; if it is per snowstorm, by hour, etc. Mr. Collins said that we pay by equipment use.**

### **HOME SCHOOLING**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 11-12-04. Unanimous vote.**

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM**

**MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve the English Language Arts Curriculum. Unanimous vote.**

**Included in this School Committee Package is a small sampling of the curriculum – Mission, Philosophy, etc. The Grade Two writing checklist, opinion and narrative are included. The entire curriculum is on the website.**

## **SCIENCE CURRICULUM**

**MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the Science Curriculum. Unanimous vote.**

**This curriculum was developed collaboratively with the Newport and East Providence Public Schools.**

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## **CONTRACTS**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the hiring of the individuals listed on the attached**

**schedule for the positions adjacent to their names based on the attached salary schedule and the terms and conditions listed in the attached individual model contract and that the Chair be authorized to execute said contracts on behalf of the Committee. Unanimous vote.**

**Mrs. Spengler wanted to make it clear that the co-pays for health and dental increased to 20% for all administrators.**

### **BUDGET ADOPTION**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the 2011-2012 Budget in the amount of \$36,703,564. Unanimous vote.**

**Mrs. Kraeger said it was very difficult reducing the budget. Some contracts were renegotiated for savings. By law we need to meet the bottom line that the Town Council has set. \$384,050 needed to be reduced. Negotiations and advertising were reduced by \$48,733. The total reductions through administrative, support staff, instructional, benefit savings, as well as additional positions added to budget were \$147,978. Facilities and maintenance were reduced by \$20,000 and general supplies by were reduced by \$6,996.**

**All programs have been maintained. There are positions that have not yet been filled including, Literacy and Math at Gaudet School and .6 Guidance at Middletown High School.**

**Concerns for future budgets include reductions in Impact Aid and DoD Funds. There is concern about State Aid reductions in 2012-13**



**and what happens to the replacement of the Education Jobs Bill.**

**The next steps are to prepare a five-year budget plan and to meet with Boosters and parent groups. A five-year plan for fundraising needs to be developed as well.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**No “Old Business” for September 22, 2011.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**•Enrollment Update – There is increased enrollment at Middletown High School. Opening Day was very successful. There were very minor situations with busses. Mrs. Spengler said she attend the Gaudet School Back to School Night earlier in the evening. The teachers were very well prepared to present the curriculum to parents.**

**•Legislative Items – The School Committee will meet with legislators. Mrs. Kraeger asked the School Committee Members for suggestions of items to bring forward to the legislators. Suggestions include advertising at ball fields, Pay-To-Play, moving the date for teacher layoff notices, increasing group home rates, and support for full and proper funding. The State superintendent’s organization is looking at**

issues that affect fiscal efficiencies, student success, and support for full and proper funding.

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•Junior NROTC – Town Council Member Chris Semonelli has suggested bringing Junior Naval ROTC to Middletown High School. Currently, one in four graduating high school students are not eligible to enroll in the military. There is interest from the Portsmouth Town Council and the MET School. There are funding issues; the cost of instructors is \$65,000. The Navy will contribute some of the funds, but we do not know for how long. Representatives from the School Committee could meet with the Navy League. Mrs. Kraeger said that if we had extra funds, would that be the best possible use of the funds. Miss DiPalma said that given the number of defense related industries in area, it might be possible to get additional funding support and then divide the remainder by the three communities.

Mr. O'Connell asked Mrs. Kraeger to investigate bringing NROTC to Middletown High School.

•MHS AP/SAT Scores – Mr. Savastano reported that most of the news

is good news. Scores increased 13% over the last 2 years and 9% over last year. State and international scores have stagnated. There is still room for improvement. The number of students participating in 2007 was 36 students and in 2011 there were 121 students. The bulk of AP students are in AP Human Geography (62), Physics B (25), US History (30), English Lit (12), Calculus (15), and Biology (12). Four students participated in VHS. About 60 students took two exams. In Fine Arts, 9 exams were taken and 56% passed. In English Lit, 12 exams were taken and 75% of students passed. In History and Social Sciences, 97 tests were taken and 46% passed. If we concentrate on this discipline and get students who scored “2” up to a “3”, we will see the most improvement. In Math and Computer Science, 16 students tested and 60% passed. In Sciences, 38 exams were taken and 24% passed. In world languages 8 students took the exam and two passed.

The next steps are to look at teacher training and initial training for teachers who are switching in to AP. Veteran AP teachers can mentor newer teachers. There is a need to celebrate successes. We need to make sure all lab courses have lab time during advisory blocks. We need to review recommended AP resources and purchase any that will enhance instruction. Student and parent orientation prior to scheduling is important. Miss DiPalma recommended doing a survey in May or June to give feedback to teachers. Mrs. Spengler asked if we have the ability to keep up with the Professional Development. Mrs. Kraeger suggested checking with EBEC to see if other districts have a similar AP timeline.

•**Student Activity Policy – A Student Activity Policy will be developed around items generated through student activities, fundraising, and how it is spent. A draft will be available at the next meeting.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS**

•**Facilities – Mr. Collins reported that the gas and electric contracts run out the first of the year. On the electric side, National Grid’s rates have been well below anything offered through the contract. Work is continuing on the metal shop. The sound wall is up and the room has been primed. In mid-October, the Facilities Department will**

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**pick back up on the Aquidneck School project. Bussing went very well during the opening of school. Currently, one bus at each school is late now. There have been a few changes in bus routes, which have been posted on the website.**

**MOTION: 1)Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent’s Reports. Unanimous vote.**

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

**Mrs. Fenton has been working on a three-year defense grant for a computer specialist from the Navy. This will connect computer education with students to compete globally. Students need to know these skills to compete. Companies are running into trouble with employees failing drug testing.**

## **ADJOURN FROM MEETING**

**MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 8:25 p.m. Unanimous vote.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk**